

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN
APPROVED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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O 202346Z JUL 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 170013

NODIS
FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT AMMAN 4091 ACTION SECSTATE 20 JUL 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 4091

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: BEGIN "PEACE PROPOSALS"

REF: STATE 168595

1. I SAW KING HUSSEIN EVENING JULY 20 SHORTLY AFTER HE ARRIVED
BACK FROM GULF. I PROVIDED HIM IMMEDIATELY WITH INFORMATION
IN REFTEL.

2. HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS TO TELL ME THAT HE FOUND THE MESSAGE
VERY INTERESTING AND THEN TO GO ON AND SAY THAT HE HAD JUST HEARD
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THAT BEGIN'S NEWS CONFERENCE WOULD BE ON ISRAELI RADIO HERE IN
ENGLISH IN AN HOUR'S TIME (9:00 PM) AND THAT HE WOULD BE LISTENING.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL
IF UNHELPFUL REACTIONS AROUND THE ARAB WORLD COULD BE STILLED
FOR A WHILE. HE REPLIED THAT BEGIN HAS BEEN VERY CLEVER SO FAR. "WE
KNOW WHAT HE REALLY BELIEVES, BUT NOW HE HAS GOTTEN WORLD ATTENTION

AND SYMPATHY WITH A PEACE PLAN." I REPLIED THAT FROM YOUR MESSAGE IT SEEMED THAT THE PLAN WAS MAINLY PROCEDURAL AND THAT SUCH A PLAN WOULD PROBABLY NOT STAND SCRUTINY FOR LONG. ON THE OTHER HAND THE ARABS HAD DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF NEW POSITIONS AND SHOULD NOT ALLOW THEIR POSITIONS TO BE ERODED OR INJURE US EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL WITH PREMATURE AND EMOTIONAL REACTIONS. I ADDED THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO OVERDRAW THE POINT, TO EXTENT THAT BEGIN WAS COURTING A POSITIVE PUBLIC IMAGE, WHATEVER HIS BELIEFS MIGHT REALLY BE, THAT IMAGE WOULD HAVE TO BE LIVED UP TO TO A CERTAIN EXTENT OR HIS CREDIBILITY WOULD SUFFER. KING SAID HE ACCEPTED THE POINT, HE ALSO NOTED THAT COMING BACK FROM THE GULF IN HIS AIRPLANE TONIGHT, HE AND HIS STAFF HAD TALKED ABOUT TRYING TO PRESENT AN ARAB PEACE PLAN WHICH WOULD CONTRAST (FAVORABLY HE HOPED) WITH WHAT BEGIN HAD PRESENTED. CONVERSATION THEN MOVED ON TO DISCUSSION OF GULF TRIP (SEPTTEL).

3. NOT WANTING TO LEAVE KING WITHOUT A CLEARER IDEA FOR YOU ON WHETHER HE WAS INCLINED TO SPEAK OUT, I ASKED HIM AGAIN ABOUT WHAT KIND OF REACTIONS HE THOUGHT WE WOULD GET IN THE ARAB WORLD. I NOTED THAT WE WERE APPROACHING THE OTHERS, INCLUDING ASAD, ALONG THE SAME LINES. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT ASAD MIGHT WELL SPEAK OUT ON THE BEGIN PROPOSALS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SADAT WAS NOT EASY TO HOLD IN CHECK. IN THE END HE FELT HE WOULD WANT TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT BEGIN HAD TO SAY IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND ALSO HE TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD WAIT AND SEE WHAT THE OTHER ARAB LEADERS SAY AND DO.

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4. COMMENT: I DOUBT THAT WE CAN GET A FIRMER COMMITMENT NOW FROM HUSSEIN. I BELIEVE HE FEELS THAT HE CANNOT LAG TOO FAR BEHIND HIS FELLOW ARABS WHATEVER THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER FINER POINTS OF POLICY MIGHT BE. IT WAS CLEAR THAT KING WAS RELUCTANT TO BE DRAWN INTO A COMMITMENT IN OUR TALK AND I PUSHED RATHER MORE THAN IS NORMALLY POSSIBLE WITH HIM IN GETTING HIM TO SAY HE WOULD SEE FIRST WHAT THE OTHERS DO.
PICKERING

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, JO, US, XF, IS, (HUSAYN), (BEGIN, MENACHEM)
To: WHITE HOUSE
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